

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated February 4, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 12-16 are hereby canceled; and claims 17-35 are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 17-35 are currently pending. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-35 do not recite inventions which are obvious variants of those recited in the claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,144,423 and 5,872,606. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 12 under 37 § C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Applicant hereby cancels claim 1, thereby rendering the present objection moot.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,423. Applicant hereby cancels claim 1, thereby rendering the present obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8-10 of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,606. Applicant hereby cancels claims 13-16, thereby rendering the present obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot.

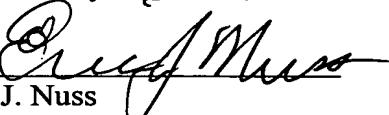
Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: June 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric J. Nuss
Registration No. 40,106
McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant

DC:50333125.1